1(to be currently amended). A holding device for a shower hose, comprising:

a feed-through element,

a shower hose with a union for a shower head, the shower hose being led through the feed-through element and movable through the feed-through element from a position at which the union is at the feed-through element, outwardly to a longitudinal position along the hose at which the union is spaced from the feed-through element,

a retaining mechanism disposed in the feed-through element, the retaining mechanism having a detachable coupling structured to couple and decouple with the shower hose for arresting and releasing the hose for movement relative to the feed-through element.

wherein the shower hose can be pulled longitudinally out<u>wardly</u> from the feed-through element to <u>{a}</u> <u>said longitudinal</u> position, <u>and at which</u> the hose can be retained <u>at said longitudinal position</u> by <u>selectively coupling</u> <u>the {a}</u> retaining mechanism <u>in the feed-through element with the hose</u>, and <u>from which wherein</u> the hose can be <u>allowed to retract inwardly from</u> <u>said longitudinal position retracted back</u> through the feed-through element by selectively decoupling the retaining mechanism, and,

wherein the retaining mechanism is disposed at the feed-through element for securing the shower hose against movement in one direction, and has a detachable coupling for coupling and decoupling the shower hose with the retaining mechanism, wherein the retaining mechanism allows the shower hose to be pulled out, and when coupled prevents the shower hose from being pulled back, and when decoupled allows the shower hose to be pulled back.

wherein the detachable coupling <u>of the retaining mechanism</u> is actuated for said coupling and decoupling, <u>manually</u> by <u>manual</u> manipulation

of the shower hose <u>that causes the retaining mechanism to engage with</u>
the feed-through element.

2(canceled).
3(canceled).
4(canceled).

5(currently amended). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling <u>comprises relatively movable parts that are ean be</u> released <u>from the shower hose</u> by pulling <u>outwardly</u> on the shower hose and engaged by renewed pulling <u>after release</u>.

6(currently amended). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detachable coupling comprises a clamping sleeve configured to secure the shower hose is secured at least partially by force closure applied laterally inwardly on the shower hose.

7(currently amended). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shower hose <u>has</u> is at least one of <u>a</u> ribbed and coiled <u>form</u>, and <u>the detachable coupling secures the shower hose securement is realized</u> at least partially by form closure <u>with the shower hose form</u>.

8(currently amended). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism <u>comprises relatively rotatable parts</u> is configured such that the retaining mechanism secures the shower hose only in a certain rotary position and in another rotary position lets the shower hose through, <u>and wherein said parts are relatively rotated by engagement of the retaining mechanism and the feed-through element</u>.

9(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism has a sleeve, which, at one position at least, has an inwardly projecting oblique surface.

10(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in the rest of a circumferential region apart from the inwardly projecting oblique surface, the sleeve has a configuration in which the internal diameter is not reduced.

11(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the sleeve comprises an outer sleeve and the retaining mechanism has a clamping sleeve, which is guided in the outer sleeve so as to be movable to a limited degree and, at one circumferential position at least, has an outwardly protruding projection.

12(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 11, wherein a circumferential extent of the projection is smaller than a circumferential extent of a portion of the outer sleeve that is free from the oblique surface.

13(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the projection is configured so as to be flexible in a radial direction.

14(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the projection, upon radial movement inward, enters into at least one of force and form closure with the shower hose (5) led through the clamping sleeve.

15(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the projection is configured on a molded-on tongue of the clamping
sleeve.

16(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the projection is configured on a separate component.

17(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clamping sleeve is configured such that, when the shower hose is moved, the clamping sleeve is carried along with the shower hose in a longitudinal direction.

18(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 11, comprising a connecting link guide between the outer sleeve and the clamping sleeve, which aligns at least one said projection of the clamping sleeve alternately with at least one said oblique surface and an interspace with the at least one said oblique surface.

19(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the connecting link guide has a connecting link on the outer sleeve and at least one pin on the clamping sleeve.

20(previously presented). The holding device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the connecting link guide allows a full rotation of the clamping sleeve.